

# LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

Mar 3, 2026 – 7:00 PM

LEFC

Elders Present: Kurt Zimmerman, Tyler Ranck, Corey Mitchell, Dave Cox, Blake Herr, Phil True, Tony Hunt, Joel Lingenfelter, Gary Hoover, DJ Weaver, Corey Mitchell, Dan Heller, Eric Wenger, Matt Sowada

Guests: Dan Martin, Dylan Weaver

Elders Absent: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
<b>Approval of Feb 17 meeting Minutes-Blake</b>	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Feb 17 meeting were approved with no objections.
<b>Prayer for the LEFC body</b>	Prayer	The elders raised prayer requests linked to the church body and entered into a time of prayer.
<b>Update on Elder Asks and Multiplication</b>	Discussion/ Decision	<p><b>Update on Elders for the Next Cycle</b> Tyler provided an update on each of the candidates that were asked to join the elder board in the next cycle.</p> <p><b>Multiplication Update</b> An update was provided on a recent conversation with an individual who is a potential partner for church multiplication. The conversation was positive, and the elders further discussed topics related to alignment to EFCA. Next steps were discussed and defined.</p> <p>The elders then entered into a time of prayer regarding the next steps.</p>
<b>Servant's Fund Policy Update</b> • Blake	Decision	<p>Blake presented proposed updates to the Servant's Fund policy, focusing on four key points. The first update defined the geographical scope of service, specifying neighboring communities as Ephrata to the east, East Petersburg to the south, Manheim to the west, and Warwick School District border to the north. The group discussed the challenges of using school districts versus towns as boundaries, with some concerns about clarity for staff taking calls. The second key point addressed instances where the Servants Fund pays bills when a check is not accepted. The third point was related to the threshold required for elder overseer and Deacon Chair approval, and the fourth point was the newly designed rubric for Servants' Fund decision-making, which aligns with current practices and will serve as training for new deacons and deaconesses.</p> <p>There was a motion to accept the Servants' Fund policy as amended, and the motion was seconded and approved.</p>
<b>New Member Assignments</b> • Any suggestions to improve the new member process?	Discussion	<p>Matt provided an update on the current membership class, noting that they are wrapping up the spring group with about 40 participants. Matt also indicated that improvements are being made to the process to make it paperless. The "What I believe" document is being revised to obtain more clarity from the participant on baptism, as well as additional clarity on statement beliefs by requesting the person to answer if they agree, disagree, strongly agree, or strongly disagree on topics to improve detection of red flags.</p> <p>The group discussed and assigned various elders to different households, considering factors such as location and personal connections. The interviews need to be completed in April because the Congregational meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Non-Sitting Elder Role</b> • How do we continue to expand? How to keep involved/informed?	Discussion	The elder board is intentionally designed to remain as 12 sitting elders. The group discussed the question of how to utilize and keep non-sitting elders familiar with the topics of elder discussions as well as engaged in LEFC ministries. Firstly, elder meeting minutes are distributed to the non-sitting elders. However, to improve upon this, there was a proposal to create a chair position for this group to formalize the connection and foster clarity on the role of the non-sitting elder. The role of the chair position would also facilitate two meetings per year to keep non-sitting elders connected and informed about church activities.

		The group debated expectations for non-sitting elders, including the need for intentional involvement in ministry or service, with a focus on member care. The team agreed to document the role and responsibilities of non-sitting elders, with Tyler taking on the action item to draft a summary of the role of the non-sitting elder to present at the next elder meeting.
<b>K-Club Report</b>	General Update	This week, Matt Sowada was ordained in the EFCA. He is now the second member of the LEFC staff that are EFCA ordained.
	K-Club	<p>Tony reported on his recent attendance at the Large Church Pastors gathering (formally K-Club) in Palm Springs. This group is comprised of pastors from churches with over 1000 attendees, and there were over 40 pastors present from across the US. The meeting participants observed significant cultural changes in church leadership since COVID. Tony highlighted four key shifts: increased distrust in institutions, the convenience of live streaming, disdain for leaders, and an inability to practice nuance in discussions (every comment is presumed to be politically based). Tony noted these changes appear to have originated or become more prevalent during the COVID era, though some aspects may have existed earlier. Tony suggested these cultural shifts require awareness but don't have specific action items at this time.</p> <p>Tony led the elders through five scripture passages related to navigating cultural moments, particularly in the context of current societal issues. He emphasized the importance of letting actions speak louder than words and ensuring that when churches do speak, they focus on sharing the gospel rather than political opinions. Tony concluded by expressing concern about the current cultural climate and the need for churches to focus more on offering Jesus and living authentic lives. This includes the ability of discerning when to speak and when to remain silent, emphasizing the need for wisdom in addressing contemporary issues while maintaining a focus on living out faith through actions. He highlighted the balance between verbal proclamation and living example, urging the LEFC elders to pray for guidance on how to communicate effectively in challenging times.</p>
Summary of Actions	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt- Include names of new members in the main service bulletin prior to the upcoming congregational meeting (just one week).</li> <li>• Elders are required to meet with their assigned new members within the month of April.</li> <li>• Tyler- Develop a description to be placed into the elder handbook to define in writing the role of a non-sitting elder.</li> </ul>
<b>Misc. Business Items</b>	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting will include a discussion on pastoral development and work that Matt has put together</li> <li>• Save-the-Date; Elder Retreat October 1-3 at Lake Wynonah</li> <li>• Dinner Hosts Sign Up (need March Hunts &amp; April host, Hoover)</li> <li>• March 8 Baptism Volunteer- Eric</li> </ul>
Misc. Business Items		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Dinner Hosts Sign Up (need March &amp; April hosts!)</li> <li>• - Rising Leader Attendance Sign Up</li> </ul>
Meeting Adjourned		Output from the guests in attendance- It was noted that Prayer was woven throughout the meeting. There was a sense of unity across members where differences were complimentary.

**Next Elders' Meeting: March 17, 2026**

**Hunt Residence**